

Bulletin

SEPTEMBER 19, 1947

TISHRI 5, 5708

Deep Significance Marked In Solemn New Year Services

The New Year was ushered in with dignity, simplicity, and genuine awareness of the solemnity of the occasion. Every part of the service, prayer, music, sermon and even the floral decorations reflected the deep significance of the Holy Days.

Rosh Hashanah services were marked this year by the innovation of membership services in the Vestry.

In his sermon for the first morning of Rosh Hashanah delivered from the pulpit of the auditorium, Rabbi Steinberg's subject was "On Being the Victim of Injustice." He discussed the four possible reactions that victims of injustice may have: the Machiavellian, the instinctive, the Christian and the Jewish.

The Machiavellian conduct is regulated by self-interest: whatever is most profitable; the instinctive reaction is that
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JUNIOR SERVICES HELD AT MUSEUM

On Monday and Tuesday, September 15th and 16th, the Junior Congregation conducted *Rosh Hashanah* services in the Organ Room of the Jewish Museum. Formerly the Warburg home, the museum is located at 92nd Street and Fifth Avenue. Mr. Sanford Hahn, in charge of the service was assisted by Miss Hadassah Binder and Miss Muriel Gold at the organ.

The services were conducted entirely by the young people of the Religious School. Among those participating were: Alan Putterman, Richard Druss, Jonathan Steinberg, Roger Herz, Barbara Grad, Lynn Arnstein, David Steinberg, Donald K. Holzman, Ruth Kertzer, Sandra Gevirtz, Doris Wimpfheimer, Harriet Levin, and Sylvia Schneider. The sermons were delivered by Sanford Hahn and Hugh Levy.

The Junior Congregation is planning to hold its *Yom Kippur* Day services in
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Steinberg, Kertzer To Preach Sermons On Atonement Day

Rabbi Milton Steinberg will deliver the *Kol Nidre* sermon on "A Pity for the Living," from the pulpit of the auditorium. His compelling message—a plea for the need for compassion, mercy and justice for all peoples, will be transmitted by public address to the services in the Vestry. Cantor Putterman will chant the traditional *Kol Nidre*.

On *Yom Kippur* morning, Rabbi Kertzer will speak on "Hope for Peace and There is No Good." He will discuss the forces that may lead to a third world war. While Rabbi Kertzer is speaking in the auditorium, the members of the congregation seated in the Vestry will be addressed by Rabbi Steinberg on "The Insecurities of Men."

The Memorial service is scheduled for about 3 p.m. on *Yom Kippur* afternoon, with Rabbi Steinberg delivering the sermon.

SHABBAT SHUVAH EVE Friday, Sept. 19th, 6:00 p.m.

SHABBAT SHUVAH (Sabbath of Penitence) Saturday, Sept. 20th, 8:30 a.m.

Rabbi Kertzer will preach "On Giving Intelligently"

KOL NIDRE Tuesday, Sept. 23rd, 6:00 p.m.

Rabbi Steinberg will preach on "A Pity for the Living"

(Sermon to be delivered in Auditorium and Transmitted to Vestry)

YOM KIPPUR Wednesday, Sept. 24th, 8:30 a.m.

Rabbi Kertzer will preach on "Hope for Peace—and There is No Good" (Auditorium)

Rabbi Steinberg will preach on "Insecurities of Men" (Vestry)

The Junior Congregation will hold services in the Jewish Museum, 92nd Street and 5th Avenue, at 11:30 a.m., under the direction of Mr. Sanford Hahn.

MEMORIAL SERVICE will commence at 3 p.m.

SUKKOT EVE Sunday, Sept. 28th, 6:00 p.m.

FIRST MORNING SUKKOT Monday, Sept. 29th, 9:30 a.m.

Rabbi Steinberg will deliver sermon

SECOND EVENING Monday, Sept. 29th, 6:00 p.m.

SECOND MORNING Tuesday, Sept. 30th, 9:30 a.m.

Rabbi Kertzer will deliver sermon

THE PARK AVENUE SYNAGOGUE BULLETIN

is published bi-weekly from
September to June by

THE PARK AVENUE SYNAGOGUE
50 East 87th Street, New York 28, N. Y.
Tel. SAcramento 2-8765

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VOL. 2

No. 1

From the Desk of Rabbi Steinberg

TO the members of the congregation my cordial good wishes for the year now being born. May it bring to us all "the fulfillment of the wishes of our hearts for good"—to us and all men of whatever race or creed who are men of justice and mercy.

* * *

Great decisions impend during 5708.

We shall know before it has run its course whether ours is to be one world or two, and if two, how badly riven its halves are to be.

During the next twelve months, some answer will be forthcoming to the riddle of the Soviet Union, as to whether it means to cooperate with its sister nations or go its own way.

During the same interval the democratic integrity of our own country will have been revealed also. There has been ground of late for both hope and misgiving. Witness, in the former direction, the Marshall Plan, our offer to the nations of radioactive minerals for peaceful purposes, and our continuing readiness to put atomic energy under international controls, subject only to the unexceptionable provision that the controls are adequate. Against that, consider our tenderness with Franco, our cuddling up to Peron, our support of the worst elements in Greece and Turkey. Russia is not alone in being an enigma of seeming self-contradiction, nor have we been found always, or even generally, on the side of the angels.

This year will show further whether American civil liberties, already so severely damaged by the unhappy loyalty investigations now in process, are to be injured still further. Right now hysteria is a great threat to this country, the

hysteria of red scares and witch hunts. One of the great issues of our time is then whether Americans will keep their heads and recognize that the most actual danger to our democracy is from the right not the left, and that regardless of political and economic opinions all Americans have rights and immunities which not even the Federal government may rightfully invade.

* * *

This year may, if the nations of the world prove both just and merciful, end the harrowing tragedy of Jewish homelessness and, through the establishment of an autonomous Jewish community in Palestine, guarantee the continued physical and spiritual existence of Israel.

The majority report of the United Nations Special Committee on Palestine is neither perfect nor everything that Jews would desire. But it is an honest, balanced, fair minded document, probably as good and as workable a compromise among all the conflicting claims as can be devised.

The great mass of Jews both of Palestine and of the world are, I am sure, prepared to accept its terms. What remains is that the United Nations shall approve and implement them.

It behooves us then to stand by, first, to use our weight that America may act affirmatively on the matter and then, if the report is adopted, to raise the vast sums which will be required for the large migration which will ensue and for the establishment—at long last and after so many weary generations—of a Jewish State in the land of Israel.

* * *

Finally, during this year as during all others, we shall either advance or retard the growth of a vital Judaism in our midst. By our acquiring or failing to acquire Jewish knowledge, by our performing ancestral rites or abstaining from them, by our participation in or aloofness from Jewish causes and institutions, we shall be consigning our heritage, so far as lies within our power, to life or death.

* * *

All these impend during 5708. To our prayers then on behalf of one another must be added the most solemn prayer of all: that in whatever of these great matters devolves on us, we may bear ourselves wisely, creatively, manfully.

—MILTON STEINBERG

Yom Kippur Appeal Again Made by Mail

The letter by Hon. Bernard Botein, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, to all members of the Park Avenue Synagogue continues the precedent set last year in the Synagogue fund raising procedure. The excellent result achieved last year, when for the first time a *Kol Nidre* Service was free from the raising of funds, is hoped for again.

In his letter, Judge Botein commented in part that "we hope this year once more to raise the required sum without an appeal from the pulpit, or the taking of pledges, or any other of the distasteful interruptions with which in the past we have perforce disturbed our worship." This change, which does not allow the solemnity and dignity of the service to be upset and broken, is a change which we all want to keep.

If we want to avoid an appeal from the pulpit, all members and friends of the Congregation are urged to respond to Judge Botein's letter both promptly and generously. In order to be able to make plans properly for the Congregational year ahead, the Board of Trustees must know sufficiently in advance of *Kol Nidre* Eve whether they have the wholehearted support of everyone. Please respond immediately, if you have not already done so.

225 NEW MEMBERS JOIN OUR SYNAGOGUE

Over 225 new members have joined the Synagogue family under the plan as recently evolved by the Membership Committee under the chairmanship of Mr. Ezra Cohen. This new group is composed of people who have been on our "waiting" list for some time, members of the Junior League, Young Marrieds and other affiliated organizations.

These new members who will worship in the main Auditorium at all times except the first morning of *Rosh Hashanah*, *Kol Nidre* night and *Yom Kippur*, have the same rights and privileges in all respects that other members have.

Friends of members of the Congregation who are interested in joining are urged to contact the Synagogue Office at the earliest opportunity.

For Your Information

The Synagogue Office, through Secretary Rosenthal, requests that each member of the Synagogue advise the Office of any noteworthy events that occur in his family. The only way the Office can keep itself posted on the various engagements, weddings, anniversaries, births, deaths, etc., is through the members themselves. Let's all be helpful!

We know that many families receive several BULLETINS and other Synagogue announcements in their households, because more than one person is on the mailing list. It is therefore urgently requested that, if you receive this unnecessary duplication of mail from the Synagogue, that you advise the Office.

When any member moves (if he is lucky and finds another apartment) he should not forget to notify the Office so that his address can be changed accordingly.

The office staff has much to do, and your cooperation in these little matters can aid in avoiding much confusion and irritation, as well as be a savings of time, money, and effort.

In addition to his Synagogue duties, Rabbi Kertzer, who spent most of the summer months in New York City, served as Placement Director for the Rabbinical Assembly.

An additional 500 High Holiday Prayer Books have been acquired by the Synagogue through the generosity of the Messrs Morris, Abraham, Samuel, and Jules Haft, given in memory of their parents.

We are sure all the male members of the congregation are grateful to the House Committee for installing the hat racks under the seats. Now you can really feel comfortable wearing a skull cap, not having to fear that someone will sit on your hat.

During the Memorial Service on *Yom Kippur*, a memorial window in memory of Anna Heller, mother of William and Herman Heller will be dedicated. Memorial tablets in memory of Jennie Rose, wife of Joseph Rose and mother of Mrs. Pauline Mendel; and in memory of Louis Jacobs, father of Julian Jacobs, will also be dedicated at this time.

Rabbi Steinberg Is Author of New Book

Basic Judaism, Rabbi Milton Steinberg's fourth book, was released on September 11th, just before the High Holy Days, by the publisher Harcourt Brace & Co. "It is," quoting Judge Bernard Botein, Chairman of our board, "a significant event in the world of letters and Jewish affairs."

The new book is an interpretive, descriptive, and non-partisan account of the historic Jewish faith and is addressed particularly to three groups of people: believing Jews; Jews who have been indifferent but who are now groping to establish rapport with the Jewish Tradition; and "those many non-Jews who are curious about Judaism."

Rabbi Steinberg, who is also the author of *A Partisan Guide to the Jewish Problem*, *As A Driven Leaf*, and *The Making of the Modern Jew*, explains in his preface to *Basic Judaism* that it is a book about the Jewish religion. It is not about Jews, or Jewish problems, or Jewish culture, or Zionism; "but about those beliefs, ideals, and practises which make up the historic Jewish faith."

A book on Judaism, Rabbi Steinberg points out, has long been needed; one "written from within Judaism and hence sympathetic to it, concerned with it for its own sake and not as a foil for something else, unencumbered with details and as free as possible from doctrinal and ritualistic dissension."

Striving for objectivity and suppressing his private viewpoint, Rabbi Steinberg seeks in *Basic Judaism* to depict the Jewish religion "as it is." Where Jews differ in their construction of it, he has given each group a fair hearing. He defines basic Judaism as the common denominator of all the elements of Judaism through all its history; the characteristics which have persisted in childhood and maturity alike, the traits which have gone on and on, the "design that is discernible no matter where a cross section is taken."

In pre-publication statements, the book has been hailed by such outstanding figures as Dr. Joshua Loth Liebman, author of *Peace of Mind*, and Lewis
Basic Judaism can be obtained through the offices of the Synagogue, at \$2.50 per copy.

School Highlights

Rabbi Milton Arfa, a graduate of the Jewish Theological Seminary, has been appointed by the School Board to succeed Mr. Norman Schanin as Director of the Hebrew School Department and administrative assistant to Rabbi Kertzer. Rabbi Arfa was born in 1920, received his B.A. and M.A. degrees (in education) at City College and continued graduate studies at Columbia University. He is a graduate of the Teachers' Institute of the Yeshiva University and was ordained in 1945 from the Seminary.

After serving as Hillel Director at Temple University he came to Hunter College to teach in the Hebrew Department. Rabbi Arfa's wife is the former Lillian Hellman who will be remembered by some of the children as a teacher on our Religious School Staff a few years ago.

A trained educator with wide experience, Rabbi Arfa's appointment will immeasurably strengthen the teaching staff of our school.

* * *

Parents of children, age 10, 11 and 12 are reminded of the new policy instituted by the School Board which requires attendance at the Religious School three days a week including Sunday. In those cases where students are unable to attend during the week because of distance from the Synagogue or conflict with secular school schedules, they will be required to register under the tutorial plan for lessons at home.

Mr. Shmuel Edelman, formerly of Tel Aviv and now a graduate student at Columbia, has been appointed as head of the new tutorial program. Mr. Edelman has done pioneering work in progressive teaching in Palestine and should be a valuable addition to our teaching program. Registration for our Religious School will take place on September 25th and 26th for those who missed registration earlier in the month. Opening session of Religious School is Sunday, October 5th.

Members of the Confirmation Class are reminded that they are required to have at least one year of Hebrew. A special class will be formed this year for those students who have not fulfilled the requirements.

New Departure In Adult Education

Mr. Harold Levin, Chairman of the Committee on Adult Education announces a new departure for the coming season. In addition to the regular lectures, a series of Home Study Courses will be offered to members of the Synagogue and their friends.

These study groups will meet in members' homes and will consist of groups of 7 to 15 couples. Synagogue organizations such as the Junior League, Young Marrieds, Parents' Association, and Sisterhood are invited to participate as groups. In addition, any member of the congregation may organize a group of friends, half of whom must be members, to enroll in one of the courses offered.

Guest Lecturers will lead the discussion in the home study groups. Among the suggested topics are: The Literature of the Bible. The Economic Structure of Palestine, Basic Judaism (with Rabbi Steinberg's new book as the text). The Literature of Israel, Jewish Music and Art, Judaism and Psycho analysis, and Jewish Current Events.

In addition, two spot courses consisting of a series of three lectures will be offered. The first will be on "Jewish Art—Past and Present," and will be given by Dr. Stephen Kayser, Curator of the Jewish Museum. These lectures will be given at the Museum late in October.

The Committee on Symposia expects to continue its tradition of calling upon members of the congregation to lead in symposia on burning Jewish questions as they arise.

Future BULLETINS will give further details on the fees and the exact dates of the lectures. Organizations, however, are requested to contact the Adult Education Committee concerning the Home Study Groups.

YOUNG MARRIEDS "B" WILL MEET ON OCT. 2

The first meeting of Young Marrieds B will be held at the Jewish Museum on October 2nd, Thursday evening at 8:30 P.M. Dr. Stephen Kayser, curator of the Museum and an international authority on Jewish art, will lead a discussion on "Jewish Artistic Expression—Past And Present."

New Year Services

(Continued from page 1)

of an eye for an eye; the Christian is submission motivated by pity. The Jewish tradition is that "pure justice shall be done, unvenomed by note, unimpassioned by vindictiveness."

Rabbi Sternberg discussed some expressions of injustice. The first was the recent anti-semitic incident in Iowa City, the other is the British policy in Palestine, which has led to the terrorist movement. Rabbi Steinberg decried this terrorism as a reaction of instinctive vengeance. Thus it is contrary to the Jewish philosophy to support such an attitude by either approbation or financial aid. Support, financial or otherwise, to any resistance organization except Hagannah is immoral.

"Terror is as impractical as it is immoral," Rabbi Steinberg said, pointing out that "it has alienated friends of Zionism and given a pretext to enemies; it has shaken the unity of the Jewish community in Palestine; it has broken Zionist democratic discipline." Consequently such actions have beclouded the basic issue as to what the Jew seeks in Palestine.

Rabbi Steinberg concluded by saying that in demanding justice for our fellowmen, Jews are carrying on the work of building the Kingdom of God on Earth.

Rabbi Kertzer's sermon on the first day of Rosh Hashanah was on "Prospect and Retrospect." In his evaluation of the events of the year 5707, Rabbi Kertzer highlighted three major disappointments: the refusal of the American government to fulfill the promise made by President Truman last *Kol Nidre* with respect to the admission of

one hundred thousand Jews to Palestine; the speech of Prime Minister Bevin, delivered shortly after President Truman's promise; the first anti-semitic speech made by a democratic executive; and the current disappointment, the episode of the "Exodus 1947."

While the retrospect looked grim, the prospect holds some promise, said Rabbi Kertzer. Hope lies in the recent report delivered by the UNSCOP, and in the increasing awareness on the part of Jewish youth of its responsibilities.

Using as his theme "Knowing Where We're Going" Rabbi Kertzer's sermon on the second day of Rosh Hashanah analyzed the growing sense of aimlessness in modern living.

In our lives as individuals, in our lack of a clearly defined American philosophy, and in the Jewish aspect of our lives, we have failed to develop a clear-cut sense of meaning, direction and purpose.

Rabbi Kertzer set up three criteria for "knowing where we're going:" first: our goal must not be trivial and immediate. Secondly, it must be above and beyond our petty selves, and finally it must be based on a clearly defined philosophy of life.

Rabbi Kertzer cited the story of the young American Jewish boys who made up the crew of the "Exodus 1947." According to their own testimony, they had no sense of purpose in life, until they experienced the overwhelming urge to salvage human lives, to identify themselves with their people, and to become absorbed in a tremendous spiritual voyage replete with meaning, direction and purpose.

JUNIOR CONGREGATION

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the same room at 11:30 A.M. on Wednesday, September 24th. Because the seating facilities are limited to 150 children it will again be necessary to use the tickets which had been procured for the *Rosh Hashanah* holy days. Parents, museum guards, and Junior Congregation ushers will assist again.

The Park Avenue Synagogue is grateful to the Jewish Theological Seminary not only for the use of the museum, but also for the loan of the sacramental objects used in the service worship.

THE PARK AVENUE SYNAGOGUE

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